Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/09/01 : CIA-RDP90-00552R000303560075-4

STAT

ARTICLE APPEARED ON PAGE A1

NEW YORK TIMES
26 April 1986

Deaver Lobbied for the Koreans 5 Months After Leaving U.S. Post

By MARTIN TOLCHIN
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 25 — Michael K. Deaver represented a foreign client at a meeting with an official of the National Security Council five months after he left his job as deputy White House chief of staff, according to a report he filed with the Justice Department.

A Government ethics official said the meeting was within the law, but Congressional critics of Mr. Deaver strongly disagreed.

David Martin, director of the Office of Government Ethics, sent a letter to the Justice Department today asking it to investigate whether Mr. Deaver had violated conflict-of-interest laws. Mr. Martin declined to produce the letter or explain what had prompted it. On Thursday five Democratic Senators sent a letter similar to Mr. Martin's to Attorney General Edwin Meese 3d, setting in motion a procedure that can lead to the appointment of an independent counsel to investigate Mr. Deaver's activities.

Under the law, the Attorney General must respond within 30 days and tell the senators whether he has asked a three-judge Federal court to appoint an independent counsel, or, if not, why not.

The Ethics in Government Act bars high-ranking Federal employees with significant decision-making or supervisory authority from representing anyone, formally or informally, on any matter pending before their former agencies for one year after leaving the Government.

In his report, dated April 18, Mr. Deaver said he had represented the Korean Broadcasting Advertising Corporation at a meeting with William F. Martin, a special assistant to the President for national security affairs. Mr. Martin was not available for comment, according to his secretary.

Lobbyist Declines to Comment

The report said that the Oct. 1 meeting was "on issues relating to general trade relations and communications between the United States and South Korea."

An aide to Mr. Deaver said that the lobbyist would not comment on any allegations of conflicts of interest or any other possible violations of law. In addition, Richard J. Wertheimer, an attorney for Mr. Deaver, when asked if his client had violated the law, replied, "I'm not prepared to comment."

An aide to the director of the Office of Government Ethics said that the law barred all but social contacts between an official and his former agency. The aide, who asked not to be identified, added, that the National Security Council, while part of the Executive Office of the President, was considered a separate agency for the purposes of the ethics law.

Congressional critics dispute this interpretation. Senator Patrick J. Leahy, the Vermont Democrat who is vice chairman of the Intelligence Committee, asked, "If the National Security Council isn't part of the White House, what is it part of?"

"It's certainly not part of the National Park Service," the Senator added.

"I am concerned when anybody who's been in government seems to be more concerned with the contribution they make to themselves than to the government," Mr. Leahy said. "One way to do service to your country is to put this one-year hiatus between your government service and your private life."

Mr. Leahy was one of the five Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee who petitioned the Justice Department Thursday to appointment an independent counsel, with the powers of a special prosecutor, to investigate alleged conflicts of interest involving Mr. Deaver, an intimate of President Reagan and his wife, Nancy.

In Los Angeles the President was asked today about the senators' request after leaving the capital on the first leg of his trip to a Tokyo economist summit meeting. "I think the whole thing is ridiculous," Mr. Reagan said. At his last news conference last month, the President said that Mr. Deaver "has never put the arm on me."

* * * * * * *

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/09/01 : CIA-RDP90-00552R000303560075-4